

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE COMMISSION

MEETING NOTES – APRIL 10, 2013

CHARLES HOUSTON RECREATION CENTER

ATTENDANCE

Present

Councilman John Chapman
William Chesley
Andria Cook
Rose Dawson
Mike Gilmore
Gregory C. Hutchings

Stacey Joyner
Councilman Timothy Lovain
Mike Mackey
Sean McEneaney
Gwen Mullen
Jeffrey Murphy

Timothy Peterson
Joyce Rawlings
Cynthia Skinner
Emma West

Excused Absent

Emma Beall
Bill Campbell
Rosario Casiano
Victoria Cattaneo
Charlotte Clinger

Samuel Hanoura
J. Glenn Hopkins
Tammy Mann
Sonia Price

Margaret Walsh
Marc Williams

Staff Present

Ron Frazier

Deborah Warren

WELCOME

Chair Elect Tim Peterson opened the meeting by welcoming new member, Emma West. Ms. West introduced herself as a member of the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria (SAPCA), and said that she likes to be involved.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF DRAFT FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES

Sean McEneaney asked that the notes be changed to say that the Commission had agreed to accept a staff recommendation that the Commission define its calendar year to coincide with the City's Fiscal Year, which in turn defined the term of officers in accordance to the fiscal year. The notes were unanimously approved, after a motion by Mike Gilmore and a second from Mr. McEneaney.

REPORT ON THE PROPOSED FY 2014 BUDGET FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO CITY COUNCIL

Tim Peterson directed members to the letter advocating for the restoration of \$120k to the Alexandria Fund for Human Services, which was sent to City Council. It was noted that both School Board and City budgets contained reductions that negatively impacted wraparound services to children and families. Rose Dawson suggested that the discussion should have been broadened to consider other related impacts to children and families, such as cuts to libraries and recreation programs.

In response to a question as to whether the group should also send a letter to the School Board expressing concern over similar reductions, it was the general consensus that timing was such that the issue would be better addressed through the Commission being proactive next year in reviewing the Schools Budget and following budget work sessions and deadlines. As part of a more comprehensive and proactive approach, Councilman John Chapman suggested that the committee meet early in the year with Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee (BFAC) and the School Budget Advisory Committee.

REPORT ON THE YOUTH MASTER PLAN

Cynthia Skinner, Design Team Co-Chair, reported that the Forum for Youth Investment had completed a draft of the Youth Well Being Profile, which was sent to the members by email and distributed at the meeting. She asked that members send any comments they may have to Ron Frazier by April 15. There was some concerns that the irregularity and infrequency of the Design Team meetings may have contributed to a low turnout at the last meeting. Some members voiced concern that there was not sufficient time to thoroughly review profile. Mr. McEneaney suggested that CYFCC members try to attend some of the Design Team meetings. Gregory Hutchings, Design Team, Co-Chair, wants to get online community input and Mr. Peterson requested that Design Team meetings, all subcommittee meetings and a calendar of CYFCC activities be posted on the CYFCC website.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

- **Budget/Finance Committee** – It was announced that they would be scheduling a meeting within the next two weeks.
- **Advocacy/Policy Committee** – Rose Dawson expressed some concern regarding the process for taking advocacy positions. She thought that advocacy positions suggested by committees would be approved by the Executive Committee. She took exception to the Advocacy Committee seemingly telling a City department how to do their job. Mike Gilmore concurred with Ms. Dawson's comments. It was stated that the CYFCC can delegate or authorize committees to act on their behalf, but that committees should not operate or advocate positions without full commission approval or comment. Regarding time sensitive issues, it was felt that members should be notified of potential positions and given the opportunity to comment via email (since it was noted that members cannot vote on positions via email).
- **Outreach/Membership Committee** – Rose Dawson reported that Timothy Peterson was slated to become the Chair and the Commission would need to elect a Chair-Elect from among the City Council appointed representatives, since the ordinance calls for alternating elections of chairs from among the City Council and School Board appointed members. The members eligible to be elected include: J. Glenn Hopkins, Gwen Mullen, Sean McEneaney, Joyce Rawlings, and recently appointed member, Daniel Solomon. Tammy Mann will become Immediate Past Chair, and serve as member of the Executive Committee.

REPORT ON EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMUNITY DISCUSSION & STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

Timothy Peterson directed the member to the report submitted by Tammy Mann. In her absence, Deborah Warren reported that representatives from ACT for Alexandria and other concerned citizen, who have pledged funds to support the development of early childhood development strategies, met to discuss early childhood strategies. The group is planning a forum in June to raise awareness among city, school, and community leaders working on early childhood issues about innovative approaches to expanding access and improving quality of early childhood services for children ages, 0 to 5/8. Deborah said that she would keep the Commission fully apprised of the initiative as it continues to develop, and that the group wants work in tandem with the Commission's Youth Master Planning process.

OTHER

Members made various announcements about upcoming events and activities.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.